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**Masse und Messen.** Von Dr. Walter Block. Series: Aus Natur und Geisteswelt. 111 pp. Ills., index. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1913. Mk. 1.25.

Gives brief attention in the introduction to the origin and development of the science of measurements. The body of the book is devoted to the scientific bases of the existing systems of measurements of space, length, weight, etc., and to thermal, optical and electrical measures and the methods and mechanical means involved in the deduction of the various data.

**Leonardo da Vinci e la Cartografia.** Di M. Baratta. 28 pp. Officina d'Arti Grafiche. Voghera, 1912. 9½ x 6½.

This appreciation of the famous painter's cartographic products is somewhat marred by perfervid language. Da Vinci's training as an engineer obliged him to be a draughtsman. This phase of his activity has been classified by the author under the two heads of sketch plans and general maps. It is shown that in both the artist's skill enhanced the faithfulness of his map products. General interest must necessarily attach to the list of maps attributed to this great genius who was certainly one of the ablest cosmographers of his day. Reproductions of a few specimens of Da Vinci's maps in this monograph would have enhanced its value.

LEON DOMINIAN.

#### GEOPHYSICS

**Land Magnetic Observations, 1905-1910.** By L. A. Bauer. 185 pp. Ills. Researches, Dept. of Terrestrial Magnetism. Carnegie Inst., Washington, D. C., 1912. 12 x 9½.

Dr. Bauer has here presented many valuable series of observations taken on land at check stations which are intended to serve as controls upon the observations recorded in neighboring seas.

**Erdmagnetismus, Erdstrom und Polarlicht.** Von Dr. A. Nippoldt. Sammlung Göschen. 2. verbesserte Auflage. 143 pp. Ills. G. J. Göschen, Berlin and Leipzig, 1912. 90 pfg. 6½ x 4½.

The present edition has been somewhat enlarged to include recent developments in the science. This is a standard work on terrestrial magnetism and a concise treatment of the subject which, though technical in part, is also adapted to a considerable extent for general reading. Its author is one of the best known authorities on the subject.

#### PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

**Die Eiszeit und der vorgeschichtliche Mensch.** Von Dr. G. Steinmann. Series: Aus Natur und Geisteswelt. 96 pp. Ills. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1910. Mk. 1.25. 7½ x 5.

Discusses the Ice Age, glacial cycles, the action of ice and of water, glacial relief, moraines, changing of river courses, formation of loess and clay, prehistoric man, the age of the human race, and answers many questions such as "how does ice flow?"

**Schnee und Eis der Erde.** Von H. Wieleitner. Series: Bücher der Naturwissenschaft. 198 pp. Ills., index. P. Reclam, jun., Leipzig, 1913. Mk. 1. 6 x 4.

In this small book are condensed the leading facts in relation to snow and ice, not as meteorological factors but as to their physical nature and properties and the impress they make upon the face of the earth. The book is designed for the perusal of the intelligent laity and fits well into the scheme of the series—the practical popularization of science.